

# Metro Birmingham Gifted Services: Comparing 3 Middle School Delivery Models

Shelby County Schools  
Homewood Schools  
Vestavia Hills City Schools

## Homewood Middle School Mary Binkley

- Teachers/classes are divided by interest area, not grade levels.
- Block schedule allows for 90 minute class periods, which enables PBL and interest based learning time to "incubate".
- No set lesson plan for most periods. Students are self directed, with the teacher acting as facilitator.
- Fluid movement between subject area classes and the resource room.

## Riverchase Middle School Beth Crawford

- Gifted students are served in subject area classes (English Literature only).
- Pre AP classes in Science are offered to all high level learners and can be an option for gifted students who do not enjoy English class.
- Students access the computer lab when the teacher schedules time for the whole group.

Enrichment classes are offered outside regular content areas.

- Course compacting/ acceleration are used to determine need for enrichment.
- Project based learning and/or problem solving activities comprise the curriculum.
- Teachers cooperate/serve as

- Veteran Teachers with over 10 years of experience.

- Alabama State Department of Education Gifted Matrix and screening procedures are used to identify and place students.
- Students have the *option* of attending the "enrichment" classes.
- Resource classroom/separate classes offered for high level learners other than identified gifted.
- Certified teachers of the gifted.

- Bell schedule and regular ed requirements limit differentiation opportunities.
- Prestige associated with the program creates a tension wherein the parents may pressure students to participate whether or not the program/class offered.

- Students are served during their homeroom time.
- Enrichment activities such as JUNA, Overseas pen pals and Robotics.
- Creative Expressions class is offered to students who prefer drama, creative writing, photography, etc.
- Access to technology is limited in a very tech savvy system!

## Liberty Park Middle School Linda Rummell